

WAS NOT A WHALE

Furniture Season Was Not so Big After All.

'TIS PRACTICALLY ENDED NOW

A Prominent Local Seller Says Sales Will Be Not Far From \$1,000,000.

Local News and Interviews.

"The furniture season has practically closed until next July," said a prominent Grand Rapids furniture man in the lobby of the Morton house, yesterday. "About all the heavy buyers are in. Not more than six heavy buyers at the most are yet to come. What else we get will be pickups, and pickups don't count."

"What kind of a season has this been in comparison with previous years?" asked the news gatherer.

"Well, in my opinion it hasn't been so good as last year, and 'way behind '90. I know some of the sellers claim it has been better, and in some cases I presume it has; but I think we have had our share of the trade, and I know our sales won't be more than two-thirds what they were last year. Some of the agents and commission men may have had a larger trade this year than last. I know one concern on Union street that has sold twice as much as it did last year, but the firm didn't carry a very good line last year and this year they did. The sales of the commission men are governed almost entirely by the popularity of the lines they carry, while the manufacturers have men come to them for certain lines year after year."

"It is practically impossible even to estimate the sales of any one season. The only way to do it would be to get each firm to tell you just how much they sold. They probably wouldn't tell you, and if they did, their statements wouldn't be true. I believe the sales for one season were compiled by the board of trade once. While the amount wasn't exact, yet it was probably within sight of the real amount. Estimating on the basis of that amount, I should say the sales for this season would amount to \$1,000,000. They may vary \$200,000 one way or another, but that is about as closely as it can be guessed."

"The reason the sales haven't been heavier isn't due to outside competition, or to a lack of effort on our part. Too much old stock is being carried over. Times are good now, however, and the retail dealers will probably be able to unload this old stock before the July exhibition. If they do, I predict that more furniture will be sold than ever before in Grand Rapids. If they don't get their old stocks unloaded, the July sales will be much heavier than this month's sales, although they are generally much heavier."

Worth a Commission to See His Stock.
"Don't think you are doing us any favor in looking at our stock," said a well known selling agent to an eastern furniture buyer yesterday in the reading room of the Morton. "Of course if you come down, we shall be glad to see you; but we consider that we are giving you a rare treat in permitting you to look over our stock. Why, we have some of the most magnificent designs ever gotten up. Do you know what we are going to do next year?" continued the bedroom suite broker impressively. "Don't! Well, I'll tell you. Next year we are going to make the buyer pay us a commission for the privilege of buying those lines. Yes, sir, five per cent commission, or he can't have a dollar's worth. Why, I consider I am paying a man a high compliment in talking to him about our lines, and to sell him any of that furniture seems like gloating over the dust before him. Why, man alive, it ought to be considered the event of a lifetime to sleep on one of our folding beds, and to die in one would be an exquisite privilege, and a fitting close to any existence. If you desire an artistic, an intellectual, a historical and a general all-round treat, come down to our room tomorrow and, if we have time, we may show you some of the designs. As you have been a steady customer of ours, we won't charge you any admission in the forenoon."

Lobby and Register.

Joseph Kibler, a prominent citizen of Grand Haven, and Daniel C. Wacks, editor of the Grand Haven Express, dined at the Clarendon yesterday. The latter was en route to Lansing to see about the printing of the Ottawa county tax sales, which he has secured for his paper.

The following furniture buyers registered at the Morton yesterday: Chas. H. Scarratt of St. Louis, Martin Enrich and B. Hallenstein of Chicago, C. B. Hallin of Denver, Louis Straus of St. Louis, and J. C. Cross of Denver.

Among the Michigan arrivals at Sweet's yesterday were Frank Merritt of Charlotte, A. D. Hart of White Cloud, A. L. Lane of White Pigeon, and J. E. Bullock of Jackson.

Thomas Hood, of Jackson, J. Sweet, of Grand Rapids, and Bert Gale, Kenosha, Wis., all members of the firm of Hood, Hale & Co., dined at the Morton yesterday.

Allen Hubbard of Detroit, A. R. Hicks of Battle Creek, and W. J. Orr of Kalamazoo, were among the Michigan citizens who dined at the New Livingston yesterday.

C. F. Ballard of Lansing, M. B. Fields of Lansing, and C. H. Cordes of Detroit, dined in a dinner yesterday at the New Livingston.

A. L. French of Cascade, Henry Lester of Gratiot, and James Cox of Paris were among yesterday's arrivals at the Eagle.

Nelson R. Howlett of Grand Haven, E. B. Patterson of Lansing, and R. A. Clark of Detroit, are guests at the New Livingston.

De Wheeler, of Muskegon, H. M. Wards, of Ionia, and H. Montague, of Traverse City, arrived at the Morton yesterday.

Daniel E. Soper, late purchasing agent for the state of Michigan and the inhabitants thereof, dined at Sweet's yesterday.

Van Deering, of Jackson, A. G. Wilmet, of Muskegon, and H. E. Stalp, of Alton, arrived at the Morton yesterday.

Ira Chichester of Allegan, J. H. Woodward of Fremont and L. Williams of Lansing are registered at the Eagle.

W. E. Thorne of Jackson, L. Solomon of Gaines and R. F. Calvin of Muskegon, arrived at the Eagle yesterday.

John A. Elwell of St. Louis, dined at the Morton yesterday. He was accompanied by his grandson.

A. D. Bell and C. S. Bell, prominent

timbermen, from Mobile, Ala., were guests at Sweet's yesterday.

W. A. Smith and wife and G. A. Sherwood and wife, of Charlevoix, were at the Morton yesterday.

W. N. Ferry, principal of the Big Rapids Industrial school, was a guest at the Eagle yesterday.

The Hon. B. S. Prichard, of Allegan, ex-state treasurer, dined at the Eagle yesterday.

E. Couley and C. S. Haskins, of Jackson, were at Sweet's yesterday.

THE MARKETS.

Grain, Previous.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—Flour—Quar. Spring Wheat, \$4.00; 540. Rye, 14 bushels, 50c; Winter Wheat Flour, \$4.00; 540. 50c; stretchers, 44 bushels, 40c.

WHEAT.—Bled stronger early and then easier later. No. 2 cash and January, \$7.50-\$8.00; May, 7.50-\$8.00.

CORN.—No. 2 and No. 1 Yellow, nominally higher. January, \$1.20-\$1.30; February, \$1.20-\$1.30; March, \$1.20-\$1.30.

OATS.—Lower. No. 2 cash, \$0.50; Samples easier, \$0.50; No. 3 White Legumes, \$0.50; No. 2 White, \$0.50.

RYES.—Dull and easy. No. 2 cash, \$0.50-\$0.60.

MES.—Average and lower. Poor to com-
monly fair to good; choice, \$0.50-\$0.60, extra, \$0.60-\$0.70.

MEAT.—Pork.—Firm. Old cash, \$0.50-\$0.60; May, \$1.00-\$1.20.

LARD.—Stronger with moderate trading. Cash, \$0.60-\$0.70; May, \$0.60-\$0.70.

BUTTER.—Creamy. 16 lbs., Dairy, \$1.20-\$1.30; packing stock, 16 lbs., \$1.10-\$1.20.

EGGS.—Live Chicks, \$7.50 per lb.; Live Turkeys, \$6.00 per lb.; Live Ducks, \$4.00 per lb.; Live Geese, \$3.00-\$3.50 per dozen.

OLIVE.—Wisconsin Prime White, 75c; Water, 75c; Michigan Prime White, 90c; Water, 80c; Indiana Prime White, 90c; Water, 80c; Ohio, Headlight, 75c; Peas, 25c; Peas, 25c; Beans, 25c; Beans, 25c; Liqueurs.—Distilled Spirituous from the basis of \$1.50 per gal. for finished goods.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—WHEAT.—Advanced 15¢ with the west, reacted 10¢. Corn, 14 bushels, \$1.00-\$1.05; May, \$1.05-\$1.10; April, \$1.00-\$1.10; May, \$1.05-\$1.10.

CORN.—Dull, steady.

PROVISIONS.—Beef quiet, steady. Pork dull, steady. Lard quiet, firmer.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 25.—
PETROLEUM.—Easy. Standard white, 100 deg. test, 61c; 74 gasoline, 70c; 86 gasoline, 10c; 63 naphtha, 61c.

LIVE STOCK.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—CATTLE.—Market fairly active and feeling steadier. Quotations range at \$4.75-\$5.00 for choice to extra shipping Steers; \$4.00-\$4.50 for good to choice calves; \$3.00-\$3.50 for steers for common; \$2.50-\$3.00 for feeders; \$2.00-\$2.50 for Texas Steers; \$2.00-\$2.50 for Feeders; \$1.50-\$2.00 for Cows; \$1.50-\$2.00 for Bulls; and \$0.50-\$2.00 for Veal Calves.

HOGS.—Market active and firm. Prices slightly higher. Prices ranged at \$3.00-\$3.50 for Pigs; \$2.00-\$2.50 for Hogs; \$1.50-\$2.00 for rough pack-
ing; \$1.25-\$1.50 for mixed, and \$0.80-\$1.00 for
hog packing and shipping lots.

GRAND RAPIDS' MARKETS.

Prices to Farmers.

GRAIN—Wheat, 50c; corn, 40c; oats, 35c; rye, 35c; barley, 30c; buckwheat, 30c; millet, 30c; maize, 30c; sorghum, 30c; buckwheat, 30c; spring lamb, 75c; fowls, 75c; spring chicken, 75c; veal, 65c; turkeys, 110c; duck, 110c; geese, 110c; butter, 25c; eggs, 25c; potatoes, 25c; beans, 25c; yams, 25c; onions, 25c; beans, 25c; turnips, 25c; carrots, 25c; calicas, cured, 60c; tallow, rough, 12c; peats, 60c-\$1.00; deklin, 50c-\$2.00.

PRICE TO CONSUMERS.

FLOUR AND FLOUR.—Lady White, \$2.50; Patent, \$3.00; Wheat, \$2.00; buckwheat flour, \$2.00; corn meal, 50c; corn feed, 50c; buckwheat feed, 50c; millet, 50c; maize, 50c; sorghum, 50c; 5 lbs. 50c; ton, 50c; ton; screening, \$1.00 per ton.

MEAT.—Pork, steaks, rib roast, 10c; ribs, 10c; tenderloin, 10c; ham, 10c; bacon, 10c; ham, 10c; mutton, 10c; lamb, 10c; spring chicken, 110c; turkeys, 110c; ducks, 110c; geese, 110c; eggs, 25c; potatoes, 25c; beans, 25c; onions, 25c; beans, 25c; turnips, 25c; carrots, 25c; calicas, cured, 60c; tallow, rough, 12c; peats, 60c-\$1.00; deklin, 50c-\$2.00.

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